



2005 ACTIVITY REPORT

**WASHINGTON STATE MILITARY DEPARTMENT
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

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WMD/EMD DIRECTORS



Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Lowenberg has served as Director of the Washington Military Department and the state's adjutant general since 1998.



Jim Mullen has been director of the Washington Emergency Management Division since July 2004.

Strategic WMD Goals

- **Maximize efficiencies through the implementation of process improvements and organizational change.**
- **Providing leadership in emergency preparedness and in assuring a constant state of readiness for military missions at home and abroad to maximize the safety and security of our communities.**
- **Providing awareness education and training opportunities for citizens, businesses, other governmental agencies and our members/employers.**
- **Our employees efficiently and effectively achieve results through mission focus, positive leadership, innovation and outstanding customer service.**

2005

ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2005:

Tsunami Preparedness and Response

Major progress has been made on tsunami preparedness at local, state, and federal levels following the December 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, and the June 14 tsunami warning on the Washington coast. A series of local tsunami summits were held to gather information from citizens and local jurisdictions. The collected information provided support for federal legislation and the Governor's commitment to enhance tsunami preparedness, in the form of added warning systems and public education. Additionally, agreement was reached among coastal counties on protocols for warning people in harm's way.

departments of Social and Health Services, Licensing, General Administration and Military as well as from local government agencies and the American Red Cross. Gov. Christine Gregoire's request for a presidential emergency declaration was approved on Sept. 7, 2005. While no Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) charters of evacuees came to the state, more than 5,000 people came to Washington on their own via planes, trains, buses, private cars, hitch-hiking, and by at least two New Orleans taxicabs. A State Clearinghouse was established as a statewide toll-free referral number. Emergency Management Division Human Services and Public Assistance Programs continue to provide Community Relations support and funding through state Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development for Public Assistance Interim Housing Program through

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Hurricane Katrina/Rita Response and Recovery

Under the banner of "Operation Evergreen," the Emergency Management Division (EMD) took on many new challenges related to the care and housing of people displaced from their homes on the Gulf Coast by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This included the planning, development and staffing of the Evergreen Welcome Center in Tumwater. EMD led the planning, development and staffing of the Operation Evergreen Welcome Center in Tumwater to assist displaced Gulf Coast residents who moved to the state. Welcome Center staffing included representatives from the state

the last four months of 2005. Successful Hurricane Assistance Workshops were held in Tacoma and Seattle in November to provide one-on-one assistance to our guests for housing, social service support, local non-profit agency connections, employment opportunities, help with taxes, and to resolve questions with FEMA. As a member of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), Washington State deployed 89 persons to assist the states affected by Hurricanes Katrina/Rita. These Washington responders came from a variety of disciplines such as emergency managers, public information officers, and building inspectors.

Enhanced 9-1-1 Network

To eliminate potential major single points of failure and to simplify the system, the Enhanced 9-1-1 state-wide network was rebuilt in 2005. Single-call routing facilities were replaced with dual-mated facilities where each facility processes approximately one-half of the 9-1-1 calls generated from any particular area. These dual-mated 9-1-1 call processing facilities are geographically dispersed to reduce the impact of known vulnerabilities. The new design also decreased the total number of 9-1-1 routing facilities while increasing the diversity of the dedicated 9-1-1 call cable routes to mitigate for inadvertent cable damage, the most common reason of 9-1-1 outages. Simultaneous with this voice path change, the Enhanced 9-1-1 data network upgrade increased the capacity to accommodate greater demand due to the implementation of wireless connectivity to 9-1-1 and other emerging 9-1-1 data needs. These upgrade changes were transparent to the 9-1-1 caller and did not interfere with service delivery.

Enhanced 9-1-1 Internet Protocol

In 2005, Enhanced 9-1-1 Voice over Internet Protocol accommodation was instituted in Washington. The Emergency Management Division's Enhanced 911 Unit actively promulgated the technical standards to enable the VoIP service companies to accommodate the Federal Communications Commission's mandate for Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telecommunications services and to establish state-wide connectivity to the existing E9-1-1 service.



State Department of Licensing staff assist a Hurricane Katrina evacuee who sought to re-establish personal identification and a driver's license at the Operation Evergreen assistance center in Tumwater in September 2005. (State Department of General Administration photo)

Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program

The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program made significant progress in 2005 in its destruction of chemical weapons at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. (UMCD) In its first full year of operation, the Chemical Weapons Incineration Facility destroyed approximately 49,000 of the 91,000 M55 GB rockets stockpiled at the UMCD. Washington State worked in partnership with the Umatilla Depot and the State of Oregon to maintain the highest level of public and organizational preparedness possible while the disposal process moved toward completion.

Homeland Security Grants

In 2005, EMD facilitated the distribution of nearly \$60 million in federal homeland security grant funds. These funds were distributed to local jurisdictions and state agencies to further prevent,

protect, and enhance our capabilities to respond to and recover from a terrorist attack or natural disasters.

CHALLENGES FOR 2006:

Recovery from Hurricanes Katrina/Rita

Ensuring guests in Washington from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita receive appropriate housing and associated support, the Governor's Authorized Representative has appealed FEMA policies related to financing of interim housing. The possibility exists for highly visible examples of

hurricane guests becoming "Homeless in Washington" if there is no change in FEMA policies.

State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan Update

The update of the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), to include requirements from the National Response Plan (NRP) and National Incident Management System (NIMS), is scheduled for completion in mid 2006. Additional detailed planning requirements levied by national and

state directives due to Hurricane Katrina and the anticipated pandemic flu will challenge all state agencies and local jurisdictions involved with the CEMP to meet this completion date with the detailed planning required. NIMS implementation is a challenge, particularly in certification and credentialing, determining program requirements, and providing standards at each level.



Emergency responders from the states of Washington and Idaho, the Province of British Columbia; the counties of Pend Oreille, Ferry, Stevens and Spokane in Washington; and Kootenai County in Idaho, joined together in the Region 9 homeland security exercise July 20 in the Stevens County Sheriff's Annex in Colville. (Stevens County photo)

Deaf and Hard of

Hearing 9-1-1 Calls

The Federal Communications Commission now permits Video Relay Services to accept emergency calls from the deaf or hard of hearing where previously those calls were made to 9-1-1 directly using a TTY (teletypewriter). This now means that protocols and 9-1-1 network modifications must be made permitting Video Relay Services to route the call to the correct Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the caller's location.

The Video Relay call can be made from any location where a camera-equipped personal computer is available. Consequently, no fixed call routing techniques currently in use, nor any location-based routing as developed for wireless telephones, will be applicable. The deaf community has virtually abandoned the use of TTY equipment in favor of internet-based messaging. It is anticipated that by mid-2006 the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act will be changed to require equal access for these devices to the 9-1-1 system for emergency calls.

Intra-state Mutual Aid Compact

A key element limiting the State's ability to respond to disasters in the state as well as in other parts of the nation is the lack of a comprehensive intra-state mutual aid compact that would allow the state to move state and local resources throughout the state and nation in responding to a disaster. Washington's response to the Hurricane Katrina



Pacific County received TsunamiReady and Storm Ready awards from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service (NWS) Dec. 13 at the county courthouse in South Bend. Ceremony participants included (L-R) John Kaino, county commissioner; Steve Todd, meteorologist in-charge at the Portland NWS office; Pat Hamilton, county commissioner; Sheriff John Didion; Bud Caffel, county commissioner; and Stephanie Fritts, county emergency manager. (Pacific County photo)

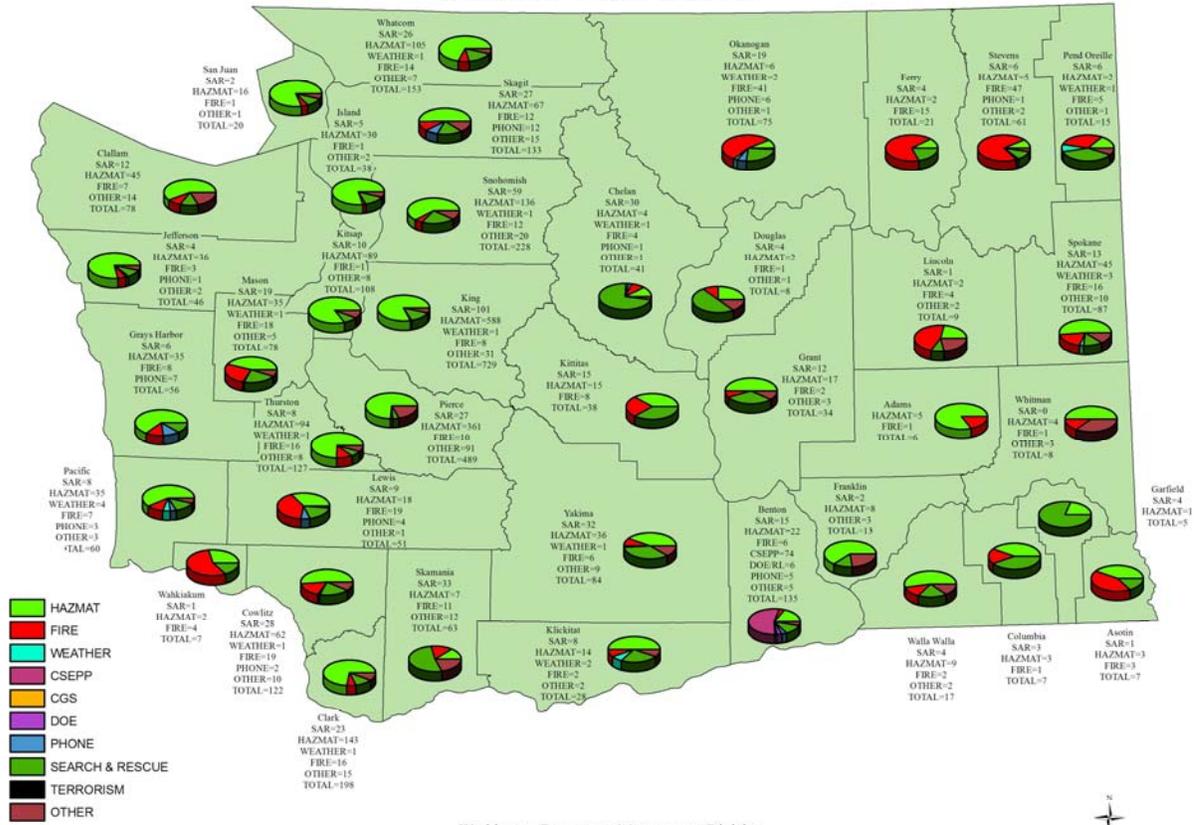
disaster has demonstrated that such a compact is a critical component to a prompt response to a disaster.



Members of the Disaster Medical Assistance Team from western Washington worked with 20 hospitals in north-east Washington and northern Idaho in a March forward movement of patients exercise in Spokane. (HLS 9 Photo)

Washington State SEOO Statistics 2005

1/1/2005 - 12/31/2005



Source: WEMD Duty Officers, SEOO Statistics 2005

Washington Emergency Management Division
Science & Technology Program



**State Emergency Operations Officer
Missions and Incidents
State of Washington
2004-2005**

	2004	2005
Search and Rescue	591	587
Hazmat incidents	1,959	2,118
Weather	76	77
Fire incidents	373	352
Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program incidents	50	78
Columbia Generating Station incidents	1	2
U.S. Department of Energy-Richland	8	7
Phone incidents (911 outages)	33	43
Terrorist incidents	0	0
Other incidents	261	329
TOTALS	3,352	3,593

EOC Activations 2005

Jan. 26, Grandview hazardous material spill

On Jan 26, the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activated to Phase II Enhanced Operations at 3:05 p.m. due to the Wilbur Ellis Company farming chemical storage facility fire located in the town of Grandview. Yakima County and the city of Grandview issued proclamations of emergency as approximately 100 homes were evacuated from the surrounding area with more than 20 residents visiting nearby hospitals with complaints of eye and skin irritation. Local fire, county emergency management, State Emergency Management, state Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency responded to address and control the situation. The state EOC activation for the Grandview Fire ended at noon on Jan. 28 after the fire had been contained and extinguished.

June 26, Walker Canyon Fire

At 9:30 a.m. June 26, a fire mobilization request was approved, and the State EOC was activated to Phase II Enhanced Operations for the "Walker Canyon" fire burning in wheat, crop rotation and grass near the towns of

Clyde and Eureka in Walla Walla County. Three type 3 fire-fighting teams and a medium helicopter were deployed to fight the fire which threatened 12 widely scattered ranches in the area. The fire eventually consumed more than 25,000 acres of scrub, grass and wheat fields before it was contained and turned back to the locals at 11 a.m. June 27. At 1 p.m. June 27, fire crews were demobilized, and the State EOC resumed normal operations, but remained at Phase II enhanced operations due to the ongoing Mount St. Helens' eruption.

June 29, Naches Fire

On June 29, a fire mobilization request was received from Naches Fire District 3 for a 300-acre fire burning in the vicinity of Naches in Yakima County. The State EOC activated to Phase II Enhanced Operation to monitor the situation and provide coordination for any requested resources. Under the state fire assistance, the Washington State Patrol's (WSP) Fire Protection Bureau coordinated the dispatch of firefighters and equipment from Douglas, Chelan, and Grant counties, and the Tri-Cities area. State fire assistance ended at 1:00 p.m. There were no homes lost in the blaze. The State EOC resumed normal operations at 1:00 p.m., but remained at Phase II enhanced operations due to Mount St Helens.

July 23, North Roosevelt Fire

Klickitat County reported a 650 acre fire was burning north of North Roosevelt on July 23. Fire Resource Mobilization was requested and approved for the "Wood Gulch Fire" at 6 p.m. On July 24, the blaze had consumed 3,500 acres. Approximately 225 firefighters, 24 wild land engines, five water tenders, two dozers, and three helicopters were assigned to assist local resources. De-



Mark Stewart, (l) answers media questions about the landmark Seattle Fault earthquake study at February's Partners in Preparedness Conference. (EMD Photo)

mobilization of fire resources was declared at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 26.

July 26, Douglas County Fire

On July 26, Douglas County officials reported a 2,000-acre grass fire located five miles east of Wenatchee. The “Badger Road” fire initially threatened 30 homes in the area. The State Fire Services Mobilization Plan was implemented at 4:15 a.m. The State EOC was activated to Phase II already due to monitoring of Mount St. Helens’ volcanic activity. Demobilization of Fire resources was declared at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 27.

July 28, Lincoln County Fire

On July 28, Lincoln County officials reported a 500-600 acre grass fire was burning northeast of Harrington. The State Fire Services Mobilization Plan was implemented at 7:45 p.m. for the “Wall Lake Fire”. The State EOC was activated to Phase II already due to monitoring of Mount St Helens volcanic activity. Demobilization of fire resources was declared at 6 p.m. Saturday, July 30.

July 31, Chelan County Fire

On July 31, Chelan County reported a fire burning near Lake Wenatchee. The State Fire Services Mobilization Plan was implemented at 3:15 p.m. for the “Dirty Face Fire”. The fire had burned about 300 acres and had the potential to threaten up to 170 homes in the area. The State EOC was activated to Phase II already due to monitoring of Mount St. Helens’ volcanic activity.

Aug. 5, School Fire

The School Fire was reported burning near Wooten state park in Columbia County, 15 miles east of Dayton. State fire mobilization was requested and ap-



Hurricane Rita left nearly total destruction in Louisiana’s Cameron Parish after the storm hit the Texas-Louisiana coast Sept. 23. The Gulf Coast region was devastated in late August by Hurricane Katrina, which was the worst natural disaster to hit the U.S. (EMD by Fred Klauss)

proved at 6:45 p.m. on Aug. 6. The fire spread from Columbia County into Garfield County by the evening of Aug. 6, leading to the Phase II activation of the state EOC. An estimated 150 homes were evacuated with another 20 threatened as the fire continued to burn. The fire was demobilized on Aug. 15 as the fire was 75 per cent contained at 49,000 acres.

Aug. 10, Lincoln County Fire

A Fire Mobilization Request was made Aug. 10 from Lincoln County for the 1,000-acre Harker Canyon Fire burning northeast of Davenport. The mobilization request was approved at 1720 hours the same day. Demobilization for the Harker Canyon Fire occurred at 1800 hours on Aug. 15. No homes were lost in this blaze which consumed 1,566 acres.

Aug. 18, Whitman County Motorcycle Rally

Whitman County requested fire mobili-



A retardant bomber drops on a hot spot on the School Fire in southeast Washington. The fire, which was the state's largest wildfire of 2005, burned nearly 49,000 acres and cost more than \$12 million to fight. (U.S. Forest Service Photo)

zation support on Aug. 18 for a motorcycle rally in the town of Rosalia. An estimated 10,000 bikers and their motorcycles were anticipated to converge on the town between Aug. 19-21. On Aug. 21, the WSP approved fire mobilization resources for the town in order to provide the appropriate resources necessary to assist with this type of event. While the state EOC was already activated to Phase II for Mount St. Helens, the EOC added activation support for this event. The mobilization was terminated at noon on Aug. 21 without major incident.

Aug. 24, Hanford Site Alert

The Department of Energy (DOE) at Hanford declared an "Alert" level emergency on Aug. 24 for a "breached" storage container that spilled brown absorbent material, possibly radioactive, into

a trench on the reservation. The state Emergency EOC immediately activated to Phase III in response to the situation. After an assessment of the spilled material by DOE personnel, it was determined no radiological release had occurred, and operations on the Hanford reservation and the state EOC reverted back to normal.

Sept. 1, Hurricane Katrina

On Sept. 1, the Washington State EOC activated to Phase II Enhanced Operations at 8 a.m. to coordinate Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) support as received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Hurricane Katrina. The EOC subsequently activated to Phase III at 2 p.m. Sept. 5 to coordinate activities relating to Operation Evergreen, a Washington State effort to host up to 2,000 people from the Gulf Coast disaster area.

Sept. 8, Hurricane Katrina and Okanogan County Fire

On Sept. 8, the EOC assumed Phase II Enhanced Operation effective at 6 p.m. to EMAC support for Hurricane Katrina. Additionally at 7 p.m., a Fire Service Mobilization Request was approved for a 100-acre fire in the Squaw Creek Drainage of Okanogan County near Methow. The Squaw Creek Fire burned more than 1,400 acres, threatened 20 structures, and destroyed one home. The State EOC ended Phase II Enhanced Operation for this fire at 6:00 a.m., Sept. 11. However, EMD's EOC remained at Phase II enhanced support for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita through the remainder of 2005.

Nov. 6, Hanford Alert

The U.S. Department of Energy declared an Alert on Nov. 6 for an apparent explosion type of event in the 400 Area fuel storage facility about five miles north of Richland. The initial emergency Occurrence Notification Form (ONC) from DOE prompted the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to activate to a full Phase III at 5:30 p.m. The



activation of the state EOC ended at 2:00 a.m. Nov. 7 after USDOE reported the explosion was a chemical reaction event and not a radiological event.

(Top) Steve Sautter, Benton County public information officer, prepares media information in the Hancock County, Mississippi, emergency operations center as part of his Emergency Management Assistance Compact deployment for Hurricane Katrina. (FEMA photo).



(Left) EMD employees Teresa Lewis, left front, and Lorri Gifford, right front, prepare press releases in May's Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program exercise. (EMD Photo)